

REMARKS

In response to the requirement that Applicant select one of two groups of claims for prosecution, Applicant selects Group 1, consisting of apparatus claims 81-91, 99 and 100. While the unelected claims directed to a method have been withdrawn, the restriction requirement is respectfully traversed on the basis of common elements in the method and apparatus claims, and further that the claims can be patentably distinguished over US Patent Publication 2003/0089191 A1 (Nielsen), cited in the outstanding restriction requirement, and the prior art in general.

Nielsen does not anticipate or make obvious the invention recited in claim 81, nor does Nielsen anticipate or make obvious the other pending claims that depend from claim 81. It is respectfully submitted that Nielsen discloses that the handles transfer between a base and arrow position in unison at all times, whereas claim 81 recites that the handles are transferred independently between the two positions. There are many advantages of this claimed feature, which Nielsen does not teach or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to make.

For example, a rider can choose at any time between transferring the handles of the present invention independently, or in unison. For example, if a rider is learning to use the handles the rider may prefer to transfer one handle at a time so that they always have at least one hand controlling the steering. However, after gaining confidence the rider may prefer to operate the bars in unison, for example in at least one direction because of racing.

As discussed in paragraph 113 in the specification, the handles may be returned to the base position one at a time, allowing control to be maintained by at least one handle at all times. As each handle bar portion is moved separately, the rider always has one hand on the controls thereby offering group safety.

Additionally, Neilsen does not disclose an arm rest. The arm rest is advantageous as it utilizes the rider's natural movement to release or engage locking means (for example playing against the resilient means to move from the arrow position to the base position), or activating the actuator on the arm rest of the locking mechanism to move the handles from the base position to the arrow position. This is different from the device disclosed in Neilsen, which uses a spring loaded plunger that is operated by a lever to releaseably lock the handles in either position. Neilsen discloses that the rider must operate a lever and retract the locking pin to transfer between the two positions. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Neilsen does not teach or suggest the apparatus and method recited by the claims.

The undersigned counsel has been advised by foreign counsel for the applicant that an Office Action in a corresponding European Patent application has issued, and that certain claims have been allowed in said application. Due to the deadline to respond to the outstanding Office Action in this application and to avoid further fees, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and proposed claim amendments will be submitted in due course when received from the Applicant's foreign counsel. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to contact

the undersigned for the status of these submissions if not yet received before substantive examination of the office action arises.

Respectfully submitted,

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